

DEADLINE: COB Wednesday, December 3rd

Dear Colleague,

We are writing to ask you to join us in urging President Obama to fully fund the Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act in his FY 2011 budget request.

With nearly 15,000 new cases diagnosed each year, cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children, cutting short the lives of more children under the age of 20 than any other illness. Although long-term survival rates for pediatric cancer are fairly high -- 1 child out of 5 who is diagnosed with cancer dies from it -- 3 out of 5 children suffer from long-term side effects.

The bill authorizes \$30 million dollars to enhance, expand, and intensify pediatric cancer research and increase awareness of protocols to ensure early access to the best available therapies and clinical trials for pediatric cancers. Improving treatments and ensuring access to advanced treatments will allow more children with cancer the opportunity to enjoy full and healthy lives. This year, the House Appropriations Committee included \$10 million for this authorization in the FY10 Labor-HHS Appropriations Act.

To be added to this letter, please contact please contact Adam Axler with Congressman Sestak at 5-2011 or adam.axler@mail.house.gov by Close of Business on Wednesday, December 3.

Warmly,

Joe Sestak

Michael McCaul

Tom Cole

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen

Robert Latta

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

The President

The White House

Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write today to respectfully request the inclusion of \$30 million in funding for the Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-285, 122 Stat.

2628-2631) in the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2011 and in the remaining years of this act's authorization. We believe that this funding is essential to provide effective, widespread and speedy research to help eradicate the cancers that plague our nation's youth.

As you may know, The Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act is named in honor and memory of former Representative Deborah Pryce's daughter Caroline, who passed away in 1999 at age nine from Neuroblastoma. This authorization bill enjoyed bipartisan support, passed the House unanimously 416-0, and passed in the Senate by unanimous consent and was signed into law by your predecessor on July 29, 2008. This year, the House Appropriations Committee included \$10 million for this authorization in the FY10 Labor-HHS Appropriations Act.

The Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act calls upon the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Director of NIH and other Federal agencies with an interest in prevention and treatment of pediatric cancer to continue to enhance, expand, and intensify pediatric cancer research and other activities related to pediatric cancer, including therapeutically applicable research to generate effective treatments, pediatric preclinical testing and pediatric clinical trials through National Cancer Institute-supported pediatric cancer clinical trial groups and their member institutions. This research, and the treatments it will help to develop, will allow children with cancer the opportunity to enjoy full and healthy lives.

The Act also authorizes grants to childhood cancer professional and direct service organizations for the expansion of activities that provide information on treatment protocols to ensure early access to the best available therapies and clinical trials for pediatric cancers. Ensuring that children get the best type of treatment as soon as possible is especially important for pediatric cancer both because children and adolescents are much more vulnerable to the side effects of these treatments and because they have the ability to recover fully if they get the right treatment. Additionally, these grants would also be used to provide information on the late

effects of pediatric cancer treatment to ensure access to necessary long-term medical and psychological care, specialized education resources for school reentry and postsecondary education and other support services.

Additionally, this legislation authorizes the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to award a grant to enhance and expand existing infrastructure to track the epidemiology of pediatric cancer into a comprehensive nationwide registry of pediatric cancer cases.

As you are aware, each year cancer kills more children between 1 and 20 years of age than asthma, diabetes, cystic fibrosis, and AIDS, combined. Because of research in pediatric cancer, up to 75 percent of the children with cancer can now be cured. However, despite significant improvements in our ability to fight pediatric cancer, some types continue to lack effective treatment and thousands of children still lose their bouts with cancer. Indeed, cancer remains the leading cause of death by disease in children. . It is with these children in mind that we seek your support in securing this much needed funding for FY2011 and the following years.

Thank you again for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you and your Administration and appreciate your support for eradicating this devastating disease.

Warmly,

Joe Sestak	Michael McCaul	Tom Cole
Member of Congress	Member of Congress	Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen	Robert Latta
Member of Congress	Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Kathleen G. Sebelius, Secretary

Department of Health and Human Services

Hubert H. Humphrey Building

200 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Peter Orzag, Director

Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20503